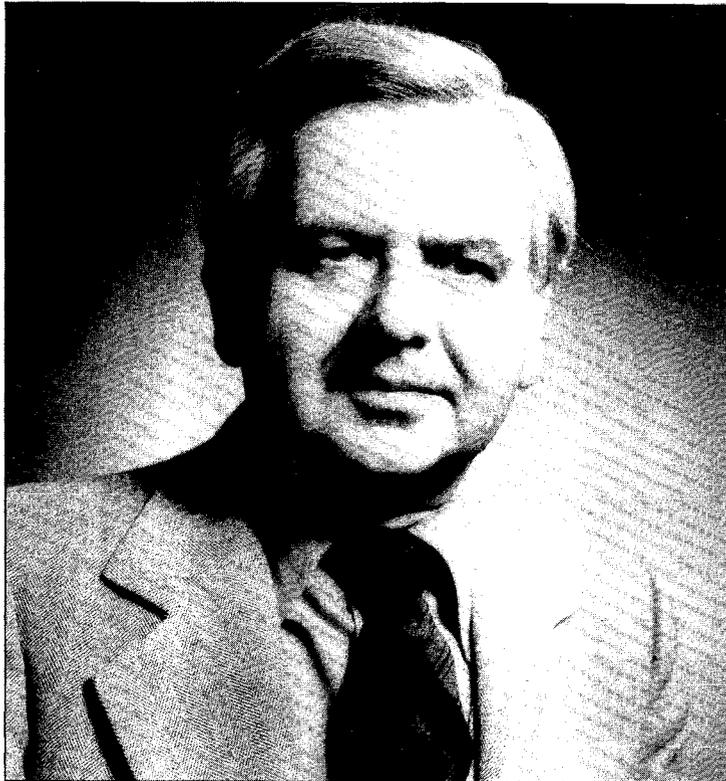


In Memoriam

Leonard Feldman, a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society and chairman of the 95th Convention, held in New York this past fall, died on Monday, February 14, 1994 after battling cancer for more than two years. He was also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and was inducted into the Audio Hall of Fame in 1980. A well-known consulting engineer, writer, lecturer, and technical expert in consumer electronics, Feldman was a week short of his 67th birthday. He resided in Great Neck, New York, where he operated one of the country's foremost electronics testing laboratories.

A champion of high fidelity music systems, Feldman was author of seven books on audio and electronics and many hundreds of equipment reviews and articles for such consumer magazines as *Audio*, where he was senior editor, *Video Review*, *Popular Electronics*, and *Popular Science*, as well as articles and columns in many business and trade publications covering the consumer electronics industry.

Feldman served as the technical director of the Institute of High Fidelity, the initial trade organization serving audio component makers, and when that group was absorbed into the larger, more diverse Electronic Industries Association, he was named an EIA technical consultant. He then served for more than 10 years as one of this country's representatives on the Audio-Visual Systems Technical Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission, the worldwide organization that sets standards for such things as broadcast frequencies. He was also a member of one committee charged with setting standards for broadcasting stereo television in the U.S. On many occasions, Feldman testified before national and state legislative bodies concerning the regulation of consumer electronics.



Leonard Feldman 1927-1994

Born in Chicago to Jewish parents who had emigrated from Poland, Feldman moved with his family for a short time to what was then Palestine before moving to New York City. While enrolled in Brooklyn Technical High School because of his orientation toward science, Feldman's interest in broadcasting was sparked by a demonstration by Major Edwin Armstrong of his new invention, FM radio.

After graduating from Brooklyn Tech, Feldman joined the Navy where he took an 11-month electronics course which included radio and radar. After discharge, he entered City College of New York from which he was awarded a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1950.

In 1951, Feldman was hired as an engineer by Fisher Radio, still owned by Avery Fisher at that time. Fisher,

who died recently, on February 26th, at the age of 87, had brought to the audio market an advanced series of electronics components and consoles including the first commercial transistorized amplifier and some advanced FM tuners. After working on Fisher designs for five years, Feldman and another engineer formed Madison Fielding and produced a variety of components including the first transistorized preamplifier.

Still later, Feldman became associated with Murray Crosby, holder of some 180 patents including one for an advanced form of stereo FM broadcasting, which Feldman's Madison Fielding company was the first to license. After a merger of Madison Fielding with Crosby's firm, Crosby-Teletronics, the two men worked to have the stereo FM system adopted by the FCC, which eventually decided in favor of the present system. ─

In Memoriam

After several years of consulting and part-time writing, during which he developed the Stereo IV four-channel system with inventor Jon Fixler, Feldman started writing and consulting on a full-time basis. He was fond of telling how Avery Fisher

had encouraged him to write, and he seemed bemused to find that he wrote easily and well about topics that often mystified others. Over the years, he became something of a Dutch Uncle to a generation of younger audio engineers and writers, easily and freely

giving of his time and knowledge.

On a personal note, I've been told that he was proud to be associated with *Audio* magazine; I was even more proud of the association.

Eugene Pitts
Editor, *Audio Magazine*

The audio industry lost one of its true Golden Ears and finest critics and writers January 7, 1994 when **Ralph W. Hodges** passed away from cancer. He was 50 years old. Ralph joined the industry in 1969 when he became associate technical editor of *Stereo Review*. He remained with the magazine for ten years and was named technical editor in 1977. After a few years at Dolby Labs in San Francisco, he turned to freelance writing and reviewing and in 1984 became a regular *Stereo Review* contributor with his monthly column, "The High End." His final contribution was completed shortly before his death.

Ralph was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and was educated at several



Ralph W. Hodges 1943-1994

West Hartford private schools. He went on to graduate with the 1965 class of Columbia University. Hit wit, style, and penchant for debating obscure points of audio reproduction were well known among his peers and his kindness and generosity were legendary.

He is survived by his wife, Maria of Hoboken, New Jersey; his parents of Groton Long Point, Connecticut; a daughter Justine, a student at Brown University and a sister Pam Myers of Coral Gables, Florida.

Donations can be sent in Ralph's name to the AES Scholarship Fund, 60 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10165.

Jim Horstman